



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Natural
Resources
Conservation
Service

January 2002

2001 Environmental Quality Incentives Program



Customer Focus

Jim and Margaret Owen raise corn, beans, and about 1800 hogs on their farming operation near Maxwell, Iowa.

The Owens' goals were to improve water quality and air quality on their land. In 1995 they built a runoff structure to collect manure runoff from the hog lots and buildings, which were located near a stream. The runoff structure contains solid wastes, but lets water pass through to an adjoining grassed filterstrip, which filters the water before it reaches the stream.

The Owens also built a 24-stall farrowing house and adjoining storage facility in 1998. The farrowing house contains 4 small pits, which catch solid wastes and flushes them out to the storage structure. EQIP funds were used to construct the 8-foot deep, 50-foot diameter manure storage facility that holds approximately 115,000 gallons.

The Owens worked with the NRCS and their construction contractor to design a storage facility that could hold a year's waste, with a low fill opening that helps contain odors. They are considering planting cattails near the runoff structure and trees near the storage facility to further improve water and air quality.

The Owens say the EQIP was a great help to them in meeting their goals for their operation. "The financial assistance was very appreciated, but knowing this structure was technically sound was also a great benefit. NRCS helped engineer the structure and was here to help monitor the construction. That gave us the confidence that this storage facility will work and work effectively," says Owen. "We're a small operation; we can't afford to buy new equipment. EQIP helped us get a sound product that works well."

Iowa Summary

Overview

Iowa landusers have shown strong interest in using EQIP to improve natural resources on agricultural lands since the beginning of the EQIP program in fiscal year 1997. In five years, **5200** applications requesting a total of nearly **\$50** million of EQIP funds have been received. A total of \$17.7 million of EQIP funds received in Iowa has allowed funding of 2600 applications. The funds were used primarily to treat resource concerns related to livestock production, and to reduce soil erosion and improve water quality.

Accomplishments

EQIP financial assistance has been distributed in Iowa through 59 active local Priority Areas and 1 program for statewide concerns. The three statewide resource concerns for 2001 were 1) livestock manure management and grazing lands 2) soil erosion and 3) priority lakes, municipal water supply impoundments and lakes, agricultural drainage wells and DNR priority cold water streams.

Outlook

With adequate funding, it's likely that the Environmental Quality Incentives Program will remain very successful in Iowa. Landowners have expressed great interest in the program in the past five years, requesting a total of \$50 million in EQIP funds, when just \$18 million was available. Additional EQIP funding would allow landowners to treat additional resource concerns identified on their farms.

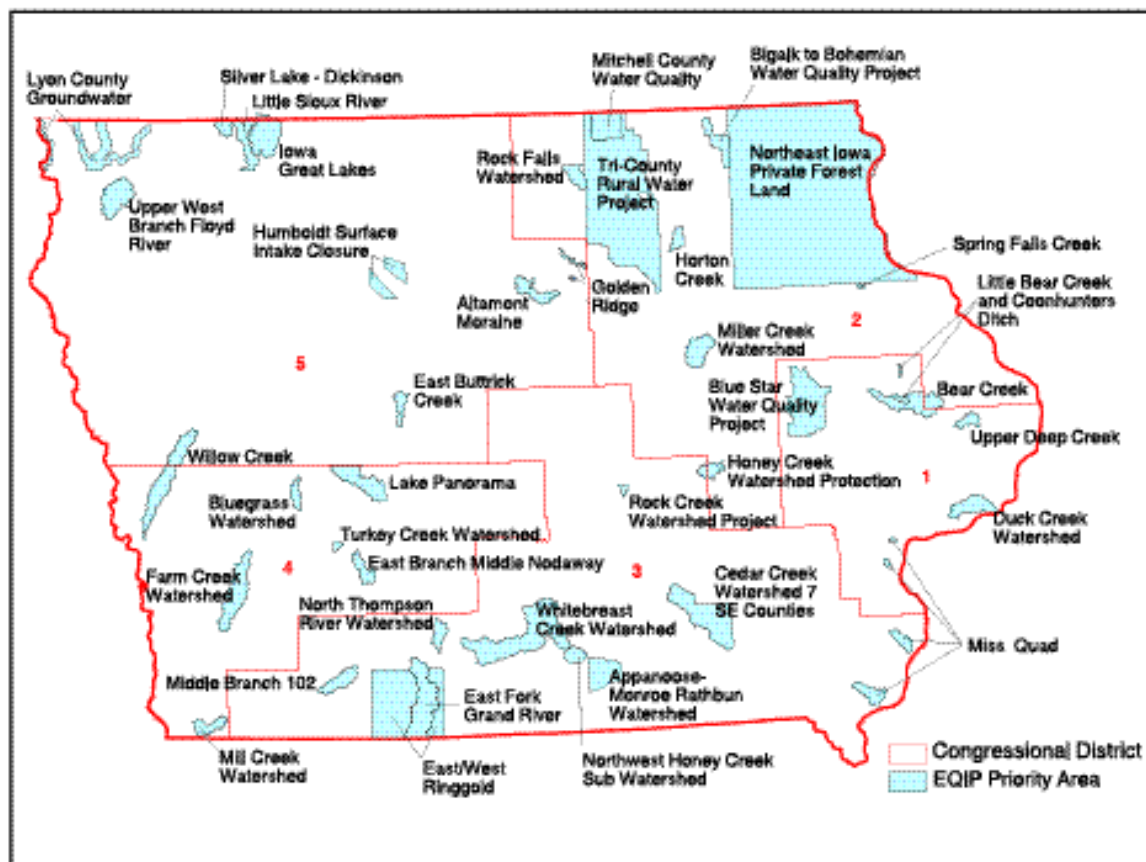
State Contact

Larry Beeler, Resource Conservationist, 515-284-4135

(add Iowa photos that have been mail to Jacqueline Davis-Slay)



Iowa EQIP Priority Areas Within Congressional Districts



Iowa EQIP Dollars and Contracts by Congressional Districts

Congressional Districts	Fiscal Year 2001		Cumulative Total (97-01)	
	Obligated Dollars	Number of Contracts	Obligated Dollars	Number of Contracts
District 1	\$245,000	34	\$1,381,045	218
District 2	\$1,201,000	144	\$3,368,068	559
District 3	\$2,575,000	261	\$6,309,567	841
District 4	\$945,000	90	\$3,454,306	428
District 5	\$634,000	74	\$3,235,984	554
State Totals	\$5,600,000	603	\$17,748,970	2600

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, or marital or family status. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD).

To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326W, Whitten Building, 14th and Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (202) 720-5964 (voice and TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.